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# Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights: USS Monterey

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Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School.

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# Historical Highlights

## U.S.S. Monterey

Named for our fair city, the U.S.S. Monterey was an Independence-class light aircraft carrier, launched 28 February 1943. She saw significant action and received 11 battle stars for World War II service. But "The Mighty Monty" really comes alive for us with a scrapbook made by crewmember R.T. Winstead. Capturing shipboard life at eye level, "Winnie" even caught a few shots of basketball games with a young lieutenant named Gerald Ford, the ship's athletic director (and later assistant navigator... and eventually 38th President of the United States).

Though unscathed by battle, Monterey was one of many U.S. Navy ships to encounter the massive Typhoon Cobra that sank or damaged countless ships and killed hundreds of sailors.

Conditions were so intense that several planes tore loose from their cables, causing fuel fires on the hangar deck; Monterey went dead in the water for more than an hour due to the smoke. Winstead's crewmates extinguished the fire and got the ship underway, damaged but operational.

Despite a sobering dedication "to those we lost at sea and in action", the scrapbook contains a roster that ends a month before Cobra struck. In all, Monterey lost three men to the storm.



The Dudley Knox Library is proud to honor the "The Mighty Monty" and her crew by providing a new home for her bell, here at NPS. We thank the Naval History & Heritage Command for its loan.

Sources: "Monterey III (CVL-26)" (DANFS, Naval History and Heritage Command, <http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/m/monterey-iii.html>) "Lieutenant Gerald Ford and Typhoon Cobra" (Naval Historical Foundation,





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# Historical Highlights

<http://www.navyhistory.org/2013/02/lieutenant-gerald-ford-and-typhoon-cobra/>) Photo from R.G. Winstead's scrapbook, "U.S.S. Monterey 1943-44", available at Dudley Knox Library.

May 2016

Irene Berry

